

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 were pending in the application. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended. Claims 4-8 and 20-24 have been cancelled. Claims 33-35 have been added. Claims 1-3, 9-19, and 25-35 are currently pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections, Allowable Subject Matter and Patentability of the Added Claims:

Claims 1-3, 9-11, 13, 17-19, 25-27 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Graham, U.S. Patent 4,507,761. Claims 4 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham. Claims 5-8, 12, 14-16, 21-24, 28, and 30-32 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 5 (along with intervening claim 4), and is thus believed allowable for at least the reasons stated in the Office Action. Similarly, claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 21 (along with intervening claim 20) and is also believed allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections against these claims and the remaining rejections against their associated dependent claims.

The present amendment adds claims 33-35. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added. Each of claims 33-35 is an independent claim, and recites a combination of features that was deemed allowable by the Examiner in the present Office Action. For example, claim 33 recites a combination of features similar to that of original claims 1, 4, and 6. Similarly, newly added claim 35 recited a combination of features similar to that of original claims 1 and 8. For at least the reasons stated by the Examiner in the Office Action, Applicant submits that each of newly added claims 33-35 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5707-00100/JCH.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey C. Hood
Reg. No. 35,198
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800

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